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Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STANTON COUPLE MAKES INITIAL APPEARANCE IN IMMIGRATION FRAUD CASE

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that in Midland this morning, David and Nancy Decker appeared before United States Magistrate Judge Stuart Platt to face charges stemming from a November 28, 2007, indictment charging them with Visa fraud.

According to the indictment, the Deckers, who own and operate a local golf course and landscaping business, defrauded the H2-B Visa program which permits non-immigrant workers to come to the United States legally to work for employers on a temporary seasonal basis, provided that U.S. workers are in short supply.

The indictment further alleges that the Deckers sought to illegally make money by demanding improper payments from Mexican nationals seeking to work in the U.S. via the H2-B Visa program, illegally "rented" Mexican nationals they had sponsored to other businesses that failed to submit their own application seeking workers under the H2-B program, and included in their H2-B application workers who were going to be working for other businesses, all in violation of federal law. The government alleges that the Deckers received approximately \$500,000 from the immigration fraud scheme.

This case is being investigated by Immigration and Customs Enforcement and is being prosecuted for the government by Assistant United States Attorney John Klassen.

A indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. Defendants are presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

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